

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application.

Claims 7-28 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-6 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1, 29 and 30 are amended.

No new matter is added.

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,373,169 issued to Wajima, et al. (hereinafter “Wajima”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, among other elements, “each of the cover layers is formed with a burning passage communicating with the vibration groove”. Support for this amendment can be found at, for example, FIGS. 5 and 6 of the specification as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that Wajima fails to teach at least this feature as currently recited in claim 1.

During manufacturing, a vibrator according to the present invention, an organic material is used to form vibration grooves between a piezoelectric sheet and a cover layer. The burning passage (506 and 604) is a path along which the organic material is exhausted, and therefore outgassing of the organic material can be expedited. See, e.g., page 13, lines 6-27 and page 14, line 9-page 15, line 3 of the specification as originally filed. However, Wajima fails to teach any burning passage formed in dielectric substrate 3 or dielectric substrate 4 and certainly fails to teach a burning passage formed in any of dielectric substrates 3 or 4 that communicate with vibration spaces 5 or 6.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Wajima fails to anticipate claim 1. See M.P.E.P. § 2131.

Further, Applicants note that FIG. 15 of Wajima illustrates a through-hole electrode 41 extending through a dielectric substrate 32 to electrically connect a connection electrode 42 and a

second capacitor-forming electrode 36a. However, the through-hole within which the through-hole electrode 41 is disposed appears to be confined to a region between the connection electrode 42 and the second capacitor-forming electrode 36a. Accordingly, the through-hole illustrated in FIG. 15 of Wajima does not communicate with the concave section 32a, which defines a vibratory space for piezoelectric resonance element 22 shown in FIG. 14.

For at least these additional reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Wajima fails to anticipate claim 1. See M.P.E.P. § 2131.

Claims 2-6, 29 and 30 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, include all of the elements recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Wajima fails to anticipate claims 2-6, 29 and 30 for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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